



STEPHANIE  
RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO  
Executive Director, HABC  
Commissioner, HCD

August 17, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Baltimore Housing strongly urges you to fund the City of Baltimore's TIGER II grant application for the Westport Waterfront Transit-Oriented Development (Westport Waterfront TOD). The Westport Waterfront TOD will offer multi-modal transportation infrastructure, including light rail, highway, pedestrian, bicycle and roadways, to support the development of 13,000 new jobs and 2,000 housing units on a rehabilitated 50-acre brownfield.

Baltimore Housing is the agency responsible for code enforcement, community development and the implementation of federal housing programs for low-income residents in Baltimore. We have 4,000 residents living in public housing in the Westport, Cherry Hill and Mount Winans neighborhoods surrounding the Westport TOD, representing one of the largest concentrations of public housing in the nation. **The Westport Waterfront TOD will bring meaningful employment opportunities, affordable housing options, amenities, and goods and services to low-income residents in these severely underserved communities.**

Baltimore Housing is committed to continuing its collaboration with City, State, and Federal agencies to advance the shared vision for sustainable development at the Westport Waterfront TOD. In 2008, Baltimore Housing worked with the City's Finance Department, the Baltimore Development Corporation and Baltimore Department of Transportation to negotiate the Westport Waterfront TOD Affordable Housing Memorandum of Understanding, the City's first affordable housing commitment. The binding agreement includes \$6.35 million toward the creation of affordable home ownership opportunities in the surrounding neighborhood as well as the opportunity to create 135 on-site affordable rental units within the development.


The Westport Waterfront TOD complements recent investments Baltimore Housing has made in surrounding neighborhoods, including more than \$13.9 million in ARRA funds to upgrade public housing facilities in Westport and Cherry Hill. Baltimore Housing is also utilizing an innovative property receivership authority to require vacant property owners to renovate or sell their properties. Baltimore Housing has set the ambitious goal of eliminating all vacancies in the Westport neighborhood by 2013.

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Baltimore Housing supports and encourages Westport Waterfront TOD's holistic approach to community transformation and commitment to expanding opportunity. The Westport Waterfront TOD will foster the creation of a sustainable community that connects mixed-income housing with job opportunities and accessible transportation. **This project not only meets the TIGER II program goals but embodies the spirit of the USDOT, EPA and HUD Sustainable Communities initiative.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul T. Graziano  
Commissioner

cc: Mr. Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director, Baltimore DOT  
Ms. Shelley Poticha, Director, Office of Sustainable Communities, HUD  
Mr. Joel Szabat, Deputy Assistant Director for Transportation Policy, USDOT